

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 INT-08 SCEM-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 SAB-01

DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /186 W

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R 111533Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5226

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0489

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD ENRG UR IZ

SUBJ: SOVIET ECONOMIC NEGOTIATION IN IRAQ

1. IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA JAN 10 AND 11 HAVE REPORTED
PRESENCE OF SOVIET ECONOMIC DELEGATION IN BAGHDAD LED
BY DEPUTY PREMIER OF USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS VLADIMIR
N. MOVIKOV. TASS DESPATCH PUBLISHED JAN 11 DESCRIBES
TALKS AS CONCERNED WITH "DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC RELA-
TIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." LEADER OF IRAQI
SIDE, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY TAKHA EL DZHAZRAUI, QUOTED
AS SAYING THAT CONVERSATIONS WILL PLAY "IMPORTANT ROLE
IN FUTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET UNION
AND IRAQ AND BETWEEN BAATH PARTY AND COMMUNIST PARTY OF
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SOVIET UNION."

2. COMMENT: LOOKING BEHIND TERSE, INNOCUOUS SOVIET PRESS REPORTING, WE THINK IT IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THESE ARE NOT REGULARLY SCHEDULED ECONOMIC TALKS SUCH AS THOSE CARRIED ON BY SOVIET-IRAQI MIXED COMMISSION WHICH MET IN MOSCOW LAST FALL. ALSO SOVIET SIDE IS LED BY DEPUTY PREMIER NOVIKOV, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF POWERFUL FOREIGN ECONOMIC COMMISSION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. WORKING WITH GOSPLAN DIRECTOR NIKOLAY BAYBAKOV AND SOVIET STATE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS CHIEF SKACHKOV, NOVIKOV HAS BEEN LEADING ARCHITECT OF IMPORTANT SOVIET FOREIGN AIDE AGREEMENTS. NOVIKOV LED DELEGATION TO YUGOSLAVIA IN FALL OF 1972 WHICH CONCLUDED NEGOTIATIONS FOR \$540 MILLION DEVELOPMENT CREDIT COVERING MORE THAN 30 DIFFERENT PROJECTS. HE HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVE IN AID TO NORTH VIETNAM, NORTH KOREA AND CUBA.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SPECULATE ON JUST WHAT SOVIET TRYING TO CONCLUDE WITH IRAQ IN VIEW OF COMPLEX NATURE OF SOVIET-IRAQI RELATIONS. ONE POSSIBILITY, OF COURSE, WOULD APPEAR TO BE SOVIET ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID IN EXCHANGE FOR IRAQI OIL. ANOTHER MIGHT BE LONG TERM ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF OIL TO EASTERN EUROPE.

4. USINT BAGHDAD COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. DUBS

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30 JUN 2005

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